

2023 PARTY LINE CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL



Party Line celebrates the tradition of Zinfandel when California's wine-growing families and the days when shared phones called 'party lines' were common in rural areas. In old Napa, a teenaged egg and produce farmer named Aldo Biale employed the code name 'black chicken' on the phone to keep his bootleg jugs of home-grown and homemade Zinfandel a secret from neighbors and authorities. Vibrant and versatile, Robert Biale Vineyards' Party Line is a fully legal classic Zinfandel from vineyards throughout California.

Vintage Notes: The 2023 season was one of the coolest vintages in more than a decade that, as time progressed, showed all the markings of the spectacular vintage that ended up in the bottle. Several years of drought were erased in a single season as rains began just after the completion of the 2022 harvest and continued through the spring of 2023. Ample ground water and cool temperatures delayed budbreak until April with flowering in mid-May. Moderate temperatures through the spring and summer allowed for balanced maturation across all vineyards - allowing us to pick at the perfect intersections of flavor, sugar, acid, and tannin maturity. Harvesting at Robert Biale began with earlier sites in September while moderate heat at the start of October accelerated picking that lasted through the end of the month.

Harvest Dates: September 8th to October 12th

Winemaking: Our winemaking begins in the vineyard with meticulous attention to detail and close monitoring by Bob Biale and winemaker David Natali. Fruit is hand-harvested, sorted in the field, and sorted again at the winery. Destemmed, the grapes are then fermented in open top tanks with punch downs gently carried out two to three times per day. Pressed, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in 100% French oak barrels, of which 10% was new. The 2023 Party Line is sourced from family growers, farming for multiple generations, in Solano, Contra Costa, Lake, and Sonoma Counties. Aged for 9 months in barrel.

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: Vibrant aromas of cranberry, raspberry, clove, and white pepper in the glass. Notes of strawberry, Bing cherry, and dried herbs on the palate are punctuated by high tones of pomegranate. Fresh acidity, supple tannins and a long, lingering finish complete the 2023 Party Line Zinfandel.